alone, then I am afraid there will not be much scope for us to place our views before the Government. Efficiency of the administration is one of them.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—But they should be within the scope of the Regulation.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Efficiency of administration is the most important point. We have every right to criticise the administration. This House is to decide whether it is efficient or inefficient.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—According to our view, it is the Government that should decide the points placed before it. We place all our grievances, on our standpoints of view, all facts before the Government about the efficiency of the administration.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Similarly we are also criticised by the Government, so far as we know.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Gevernment knows where the shoe pinches.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Having dealt with the work of the First Council, I should like to say a few words about the administration in general of the State. I base my remarks mostly on the admissions made in the First Council and elsewhere by Government.

Public Service.

I shall take first the Public Service. The efficiency of the administration of any country is really the efficiency of the Public Service. Applying this test, what do we see around us? Is the Public Service maintained on the lines of efficiency in our State?

I am constrained to say that the first principle observed in our State is *the principle of favouritism and nepotism*. This abhorent principle is allowed to have a free run in matters of appointments, of promotions and even of retirements. Efficiency, both physical and mental, and merit do not count, when men are entertained to Government service; and extensions of service are freely given to men, who are the special favourites of the authorities in power. Legitimate promotions are not secured for competent men because favoured ones have to be promoted over them; and the superannuation rule is simply ignored, to keep the favoured ones in the service, and thereby to thwart the promotions of many a deserved one. I ask, can we expect efficiency when the Public Service is run on these lines? I shall not go to particular instances. They are well known in the State as well as outside it. It is only too true that, in our State, posts are

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

created for men, and men are not recruited for the posts. I have only to say that, unless efficiency and merit irrespective of *Caste*, *Creed* or *position* of His Highness' subjects is made the guiding principle in the ordering of the Public Service, an honest, loyal and competent Public Service would be an impossibility.

Agriculture.

The next point that I wish to touch upon is the working of a few important Departments. I shall take first *Agriculture*. It is admitted on all hands that agriculture is the mainstay of our State. The report on the Administration of Cochin for the year 1100 M. E. says under the heading, '*Economic Development*' "In a State where the majority of the people subsist on agriculture, the importance of paying close attention to agricultural development cannot be over-estimated." Is the Government bestowing sufficient attention to this all-important industry? What are our agricultural experts doing now? Where is the Laboratory where these experts can do the work, for which they were appointed long ago? The provisions made in the present budget for the construction of a Laboratory building in the Central Farm at Ollukkara goes no great way. Are these experts touring and teaching our ryots the various principles and practices, which the ryots ought to know? Are the experts analysing the soils in various places, so that the ryots may be taught to raise the best crop suitable to the soil? Are the ryots taught to make manures cheap and simple? I again ask what has the Government done for agriculture from 1100. Is it not ridiculous that these high-paid agricultural experts are asked to waste their time in superintending Panchayat work? Why not separate the Panchayat, and put it under a separate Head, so that both the Departments may fare better? This separation was the burden of the non-official cry in the First Council, and now this separation is recommended by the Special Finance Committee also. After this separation is effected, the Government have to reorganise this Department by establishing the necessary Laboratory and by appointing, if necessary, some more officers, who would educate the ryots *in their own villages*, both theoretically and practically, the science and art of agriculture.

As regards irrigation, it seems to be nobody's concern in our State. In the last budget, provision was made for the appointment of a special Engineer to investigate this all-important and vital question. But nothing has been heard of it till now. I cannot imagine a more important subject for the consideration of an agricultural State, as ours than this. Yet the indifference shown by the Government is nothing short of callous.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly